

Remarks

The Office Action mailed March 10, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 12, and 13 have been amended. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

The objection to claim 13 is respectfully traversed. Specifically, Applicant has amended claim 13 to recite a body having "a front, a base and side walls having, said front, base and side walls defining a wedge shape." Accordingly, Applicant requests that the objection to claim 13 be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 12, 14, and 17 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Follingstad (USP 6,623,278). Claims 1, 12, and 19 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wettengel (USP 5,011,257). Claims 1, 3-5, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, and 19 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Morgan (USP 5,129,842). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for reasons set forth hereafter.

Claims 1 and 12 define a patch panel system and a patch panel, respectively, comprising, among other things, a first connectivity interface having multiple sections extending along a substantially arcuate path. The multiple sections are joined to form an N-sided portion of a polygon where N is greater than two. Additionally, connector ports are provided on at least two of the multiple sections of the first connectivity interface.

The prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed connectivity interface and connector port configuration. Follingstad discloses a jack access card 26 including a front interface piece 54 having an interface surface defining upper and lower patch plug ports 56 and 58, respectively. Mounting portions extend from and are angled with respect to the interface surface. The mounting portions do not include patch plug ports. Hence, Follingstad's front interface piece

does not include connector ports on at least two of the multiple sections of the first connectivity interface as claimed in both claim 1 and claim 12.

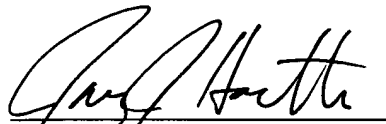
Wettengel discloses a patching panel 4 having a zig zag corrugated section. Apertures for individual connectors are provided on alternate faces 6 of the corrugations and are generally facing away from the center of the patching panel 4. However, the patching panel 4 disclosed in Wettengel is generally planar. In contrast, the patch panels recited in claims 1 and 12, extend along a generally arcuate path.

Morgan suffers a similar deficiency. In Morgan, a patch panel 10 is provided having rails 12 and 14 extending perpendicular to and spaced apart from each other between end caps 16 and 18. The rails 12 and 14 define a rectangular opening 20, and a plurality of faceplates 22 are mounted side-by-side within the opening 20. In contrast, the patch panels recited in claims 1 and 12 extend along a generally arcuate path. Hence, the prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Moreover, claims 2-11 depend from independent claim 1 which, for at least the reasons set forth above, is submitted to be patentable over the cited prior art. Additionally, claims 13-20 depend from independent claim 12 which, for at least the reasons set forth above, is also submitted to be patentable over the cited prior art. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 USC § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-7, 9-10, 12, and 14-20 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay J. Hoette", written over a horizontal line.

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